



HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

- Reading
- Dancing
- Martial arts (capoeira/kick boxing)
- Math
- Physics

- Cognitive science

ART FORMS:

- Bass and classical guitars
- Violin

GIANCARLO ARZU

What drew you to arts education, and how do you practice the arts in your own life?

What drew me to arts education were the arts programs that helped nourish my artistic and personal growth. These programs were Plaza de la Raza’s school of Visual and Performing Arts and the CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP) Program. I had many wonderful experiences thanks to my amazing teachers and felt compelled to give equally impactful experiences to future generations of budding artists in my community.

Tell us about an impactful experience or association with the arts from your youth.

When I was in high school, I had the unique opportunity of playing music with some legendary musicians such as Patrice Rushen and Leon “Ndugu” Chancler. Furthermore, I had the fortune of performing at venues such as the Roxy, the Hollywood Bowl, the Jazz Education Network Conference, and Central Los Angeles Jazz Festival..

Is there anything you would tell your 15-year-old self with regard to the arts, if you had the opportunity to do so?

If I were to tell 15-year-old Giancarlo what 22-year-old Giancarlo knows, it would be that he should make classical guitar his primary instrument and that he should practice more consistently and effectively -- in other words, keep a practice journal. Also, 15-year-old me should consider taking some dance and drawing lessons. Other than that, keep doing what you’re doing and keep your standards high without being too hard on yourself.

In your opinion, what are the biggest barriers to equitable arts education access in Los Angeles?

There are several barriers. Lack of accessibility to areas that aren’t in the metropolitan region, lack of representation among all the different kinds of arts disciplines, overrepresentation of certain kinds of art, and underrepresentation of certain voices and identities within the art world that make the arts more relevant to people who may otherwise not display any interest in the arts.